

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 10-12 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 and 10-13 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

In the outstanding Office Action at pages 2-3, claims 2-8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,755,743 to Yamashita, et al. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite "storing a plurality of user-status-selection tables including a selectable list of user-status candidates defined for each virtual space in which a user participates." Independent claim 10 has also been amended to recite "reading out the user-status-selection table of each virtual space in which a user terminal participates when the user terminal has participated in a plurality of virtual spaces." Independent claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the "user-status-selection table" defines a list of status option that users can select. Further, a user has a plurality of status tables, and a plurality of statuses can be registered in a plurality of virtual spaces at the same time.

Yamashita at col. 3, lines 10-60, is alleged to teach "storing a plurality of user-status-selection tables including a list of configurable user statuses registered for each virtual space in which a user participates." Applicants, however, respectfully disagree and assert that Yamashita teaches that a result of a battle is kept as registration information for each group. Yamashita, however, fails to teach or suggest "storing a plurality of user-status-selection tables including a selectable list of user-status candidates defined for each virtual space in which a user participates," as recited in amended independent claim 10. Further, Yamashita fails to teach or suggest "displaying on the user terminal the list of the selectable user statuses for each virtual space based on the read-out user-status-selection table," as recited in amended independent claim 10. Further, Yamashita at col. 29, lines 36-46 is also alleged to teach "a character customized." Applicants respectfully submit that this portion of Yamashita teaches a

configuration in which users select their characters. However, Yamashita fails to teach or suggest a configuration in which users select characters from a list for each battle group.

Yamashita at col. 3, lines 61-67, is alleged to teach "reading out the user-status-selection table of a virtual space in which a user terminal participates when the user terminal has participated in each virtual space." Applicants respectfully disagree and assert that this portion of Yamashita teaches a configuration in which users can select a battle mode when having a battle. However Yamashita fails to teach or suggest that a battle mode can be defined for each battle group. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamashita fails to teach or suggest "reading out the user-status-selection table of each virtual space in which a user terminal participates when the user terminal has participated in a plurality of virtual spaces," as recited in amended independent claim 10."

Yamashita at col. 21, line 62 to col. 22, line 5; col. 23, line 65 to col. 24, line 17; and col. 35 lines 47-54 are alleged to teach "displaying on the user terminal the list of the selectable user statuses for each virtual space based on the read-out user-status-selection table." Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portions of Yamashita only teach that a battle status is displayed in a title window of a user's terminal, which enables the game watching players to see the battle from various positions. Applicants respectfully submit that Yamashita fails to teach or suggest "displaying on the user terminal the list of the selectable user statuses for each virtual space based on the read-out user-status-selection table," as recited in amended independent claim 10.

Yamashita at col. 24, lines 1-18 and col. 35, lines 47-54, are alleged to teach "setting a user status which was selected from the list of selectable user statuses for each virtual space in which the user has participated." Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the cited portion of Yamashita teaches only a configuration in which information regarding a battle is displayed, or the game watching players can change a position to view the battle. Thus, no method to select a battle status is disclosed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamashita fails to teach or suggest "setting a user status which was selected from the list of selectable user statuses for each virtual space in which the user has participated," as recited in amended independent claim 10.

Yamashita at col. 29, lines 36-46 and col. 31, lines 43, et seq. are alleged to teach "sending to each virtual space the set user status," "receiving from each virtual space the set user status," and

"displaying the set user status for each virtual space," as recited in amended independent claim 10. Applicants respectfully disagree and assert that Yamashita teaches only a configuration in which users select their characters. Yamashita fails to teach or suggest a list of selectable characters defined for each group. Yamashita also fails to teach or suggest a configuration in which users select characters from the list for each battle group.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamashita fails to teach all of the features of amended independent claim 10 and those claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 10, and those claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, patentably distinguish over the prior art in condition for allowance.

Further, as claims 11 and 12 have been amended to recite features similar to those of amended independent claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 11 and 12, and those claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over the prior art for reasons similar to independent claim 10 and, therefore, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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